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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the listing.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein the fiber-reinforced plastic includes thermoplastic.

17. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein the fiber-reinforced plastic includes duroplastic.

18. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein the fiber-reinforced plastic includes thermosetting plastic.

19. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein the fiber-reinforced plastic includes carbon fibers.

20. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein the fiber-reinforced plastic includes aramid fibers.

21. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein the fiber-reinforced plastic includes glass fibers.

22. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein the fiber-reinforced plastic includes mineral fibers.

23. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein the fiber-reinforced plastic includes polyamide fibers.

24. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein the metal is aluminum.

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25. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said fibers is oriented by at least one winding method chosen from the methods consisting of: filament winding, braided tube winding, and helical winding.

26. (Previously added) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein said fibers are oriented unidirectionally.

27. (Previously added) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein said fibers are oriented at zero angle relative to a longitudinal axis of said microscope stand.

28. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein said first material and said second material are rigidly connected to each other.

29. (Previously added) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein said first material and said second material are rigidly connected to each other.

30. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein said first material and said second material are rigidly connected to each other, and wherein said second material is thrust elastically damped elastic to thrust loading.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously added) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein at least one support member divided by said interface is said at least one of said first and second concentric tubes.

34. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim 1, wherein at least one interface is metallic.

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44. (Currently amended) The microscope stand according to claim 43, wherein at least one support member is prestressed in its axial direction.

45. (Previously added) The microscope stand according to claim 43, wherein prestressing is produced by a central tensioning element which is connected to said at least one support member.

46. (Represented - formerly dependent claim # 32) The microscope stand according to claim 43, wherein the support members are formed of a plurality of first and second concentric tubes formed of first and second materials, the material of which said first and second materials is fiber-reinforced plastic, and the material of which said first and second materials is metal with a comparatively low modulus of elasticity, the interface between said first and second materials and contributing to the vertical separation of the support members, and further comprising at least one interface for providing a stress-free connection between the support members, wherein said at least one interface divides at least one of said plurality of support member segments.

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